

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood City Commission was held on April 27, 2026, at 5:30 P.M., preceded by a Public Hearing at 5:25 P.M., in the Commission Chambers, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood.

1. Mayor Corcoran opened the Public Hearing at 5:25 P.M.
2. Recording of the Roll.
PRESENT: Commissioners Dean, Frank, Korpi, Mildren, and Mayor Corcoran
ABSENT: None
3. Public Hearing: To receive public comment on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) MI Neighborhood 3.0 application in the amount of \$304,878.00. The funding would support exterior rehabilitation for up to ten single-family homes within the City of Ironwood, with a maximum of \$25,000 per unit. Community Development Director Tom Bergman reviewed the application process for homeowners should the City be awarded the grant. He noted that eligible improvements include roofing, siding, soffit, and fascia, which help enhance neighborhood appearance and housing quality. No public comments were received.
4. Mayor Corcoran closed the Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M.

A. Mayor Corcoran called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:30 P.M.

B. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Commissioners Dean, Frank, Korpi, Mildren, and Mayor Corcoran
ABSENT: None

C. Approval of the Consent Agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes:

a. Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2026.

2) Review and Place on File:

a. Ironwood Housing Commission Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2026.

b. Department of Public Works Updates.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.*

D. Approval of the Agenda.

***Motion** was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to approve the agenda as presented.*

E. Review and Place on File:

1. Revenue & Expenditure Report.

2. Cash and Investment Summary Report.

***Motion** was made by Korpi, seconded by Frank, and carried, to receive and place on file the Statement of Revenue & Expenditures Report for the month ending March 31, 2026, and the Cash and Investment Summary Report for March 2026.*

F. Approval of Monthly Check Register Report.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve the Check Register Report for March 2026 as presented. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

G. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
There were none.

H. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).
There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-004, a Resolution approving a Donation Acceptance Policy.

Motion was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to adopt Resolution #026-004, a Resolution approving a Donation Acceptance Policy. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

J. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-006, a Resolution approving the submittal of an application for a Community Development Block Grant for housing rehabilitation and submittal of the Mi Neighborhood 3.0 Grant Application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Dean, to adopt Resolution #026-004, a Resolution approving a Donation Acceptance Policy. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

K. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-007, the 2026 Ironwood Comprehensive Plan. (**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW ON THE CITY WEBSITE Ironwood Comprehensive Plan.**).

Motion was made by Dean, seconded by Korpi, to adopt Resolution #026-004, a Resolution approving a Donation Acceptance Policy. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

L. Discuss and consider approving the 2026 American Red Cross Facilities Use Agreement with a Pet Addendum.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, to approve the 2026 American Red Cross Facilities Use Agreement with a Pet Addendum.

Yes (4): Commissioners Korpi, Mildren, Dean, and Mayor Corcoran.

No (1): Commissioner Frank.

Motion carried on a 4 to 1 roll call vote.

M. Discuss and consider approving Payment #17, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$47,700.00 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents.

Motion was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to approve Payment #17, for C.D. Smith, in the amount of \$47,700.00 for the City of Ironwood – Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project and authorize the Mayor to sign all applicable documents. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- N. Discuss and consider USDA Rural Development funding offer for the Newport Heights Water system project.

Motion was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to decline the loan only offer from USDA Rural Development for the Newport Heights Water system project and keep the application open for possible grant funding. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- O. Discuss and consider authorizing staff to apply for a Category F MDOT funding application for the McLeod Avenue and Wall Street paving project.

Motion was made by Mildren, seconded by Korpi, and carried, to authorize staff to apply for a Category F MDOT funding application for the McLeod Avenue and Wall Street paving project.

- P. Discuss and consider authorizing the use of City owned property and a portion of the Iron Belle Trail Grade to develop a kids bike trail.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Dean, to authorize the use of City owned property and a portion of the Iron Belle Trail Grade to develop a kids bike trail. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- Q. Discuss and consider authorizing the submittal of a Match on Main Grant Application through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Motion was made by Korpi, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to authorize the submittal of a Match on Main Grant Application through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

- R. Discuss and consider approval of a Sound Equipment Use Policy.

Motion was made by Frank, seconded by Mildren, and carried, to approve a Sound Equipment Use Policy, establishing guidelines and fees.

- S. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution #026-008, a Pole Banner Policy.

Motion was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, to adopt Resolution #026-008, a Resolution approving a Pole Banner Policy. Unanimously passed by roll call vote.

- T. Manager's Report.

City Manager Paul Anderson provided the following verbal updates:

Engineering Projects

- *\$33MIL Wastewater Plant Project for GIWA:*
 - *Waiting to start primary clarifier rehab. Hope to start in mid-May*
 - *Pump change over in building 35 is done. Just chemical change remaining.*
 - *RAS pump in building 25 is getting started up tomorrow.*
 - *The million-dollar Chinese sludge dryer has arrived from China and has passed inspections. Waiting on RFI responses before installation can begin. Some preliminary associated equipment should be installed in May.*
 - *Many other items are progressing.*

- *\$11MIL Phase 2 of the water treatment plant:*
 - *Snow Country in middle of the process of the backfill of the Clearwell and most exterior piping installation.*
 - *Digging infiltration basin will start later this week.*
 - *Security Cameras done.*
 - *Garage roof shingles almost complete (tomorrow)*
 - *Installing aluminum stairs on east side is mostly complete.*
 - *Piping in gallery is being painted. Should be done by next week.*
 - *Chemical feed pumps are 85% complete.*
 - *Electricians are working on runs to blower and low voltage to pipe gallery.*
 - *Overflow troughs are starting to be installed today.*
 - *Startup beginning mid-June.*
- *Phase 5B \$3.8MIL and Phase 5C \$1.8MIL water / sewer project*
 - *Revegetation work will be starting in the coming weeks once all of the snow is melted and the ground dries out a little bit more.*
 - *Punchlist work on last year's work to be started in coming weeks. Mainly consists of some curb and sidewalk replacement and a couple of settlement areas to be fixed. Then second lift of paving mid to late summer 2026.*
 - *Jakes has started on Ridge and Arch Streets as of last week. Temporary water was set up last week and stripping of the asphalt began today. All Phase 5 work has a funding deadline for Final Completion of September 1, 2026.*
- *The \$3MIL Lead Service Line Replacement project with Jakes Excavating: There is roughly \$400K remaining in budget for this job. We are working through the final list of addresses to see which ones can be done. In the next couple of weeks, Jakes will be installing lead service line repairs in the downtown area of Ironwood. This will have a temporary impact on traffic flow around the businesses.*
- *The \$598,000 TMF grant with Jakes Excavating is complete for now. Jakes did a few dozen this spring already. We still have funds left if we need to use the funds to identify materials in the coming months.*
- *Library Community Spaces Grant Project: Ruotsala Construction will be complete with the punch list work tomorrow and is requesting that the Architect perform the inspection ASAP.*
- *Newport Heights water future project: Discussed earlier this meeting.*
- *Phase 6 preliminary engineering report from Coleman Engineering is completed and Coleman is addressing USDA comments.*
- *GIS Updates:*
 - *Cemetery GIS site is drafted, and staff is working through things with Colligo staff to make the site more user friendly.*
- *Our 29 sanitary sewer flow meters will be deployed this week.*
- *Civic Center Ice Making Plant Project – demo to start in the next month. Still waiting on exact dates.*
- *Old County Road and Rock Road Waterlines: Ruotsala work to start Mid-June. Ruotsala is working on paperwork before work can begin.*
- *FY 27 Small Urban MDOT Funding for Douglas Boulevard Sidewalks: Coleman Engineering is currently working on design of the project. The goal is to have this out to bid this late fall 2026 for construction in 2027.*

- *Community Development is in the process of rehabbing up to 7 properties with the current MSHDA Round 1 Mi Neighborhood grant. Three properties have signed contracts, and one is awaiting signature from the contractor. One more property is going through environmental review and income verification. Work is continuing to secure the other properties.*
- *The application for Round 3 of MSHDA Mi Neighborhood: discussed earlier this meeting.*
- *\$50,000 Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance Center grant for smoke testing: grant agreement has been signed, and project is on hold until June at which time Coleman Engineering will perform the smoke testing of our sanitary sewer system.*
- *Industrial Park study: Coleman Engineering and a wetland consultant will be performing a study on the City's 70-acre property that is at the corner of Old County Road and South Davis Road. That work is under contract and on hold until summer conditions arrive for the summer vegetation growing season. This work is being paid for by a \$47,500 Invest UP site readiness grant.*
- *Projects that still need to be bid out this spring:*
 - *Road crack sealing (bids due May 6)*
 - *Asphalt Patching*
 - *Asphalt parking area at Civic Center*
 - *Tub grinding of wood chips at Compost Site*
 - *Clean and inspect Mt Zion tank*

General Information

- *The City's Recodification of all City Codes Project is still in process. We provided our comments to the consultant, and they are working on finalizing the document.*
- *Update to the City's Employee Policy and Procedure Manual is in progress.*
- *City administrative staff wage study is still in progress. Wage surveys from the other communities are in now and the consultant is compiling their results and final report.*
- *Spring City Cleanup/"dump day" is this week on Friday and Saturday May 1&2 at IPSD. Please bring your unwanted items to help clean up your property.*
- *Spring water main flushing will be May 11th - 15th.*
- *A public informational meeting will be coming up in mid-May regarding our new water treatment plant coming online in mid-June. More details to come at the next City Commission meeting and via public advertisement.*
- *Opening of the Curry Park Campground will be May 20th. DPW will be working to get everything prepared prior to that date. The Clerk's office currently has about 169 reservations for this upcoming season. Chris and Kathy will be returning as our hosts this summer.*
- *Compost site is now open as of last weekend.*
- *Mt Zion road was opened today.*
- *Depot Park is open.*
- *Still need to open the splash pad and Norrie Park which will happen at the end of this week.*
- *DPW will continue patching potholes, cleaning up plow damage sod repairs and cleaning streets and catch basins. The guys are getting the cemetery ready for opening the roads in the next couple of weeks. Burials are scheduled to begin starting on 5/8/26.*
- *IPSD is beginning their spring blight inspections and notifying properties to use the spring clean-up this week. After this week they will need to begin official blight notices.*

April 27, 2026

- *The 2026 Downtown Ironwood Mural Festival has big decisions to make. DIDA received 27 applications from artists interested in doing the murals. DIDA to select the number of murals and locations in the coming weeks.*
- *Lastly a big THANK YOU to the Range Mater Gardeners and Marshall's employees for their work at the Downtown Pocket Park cleaning that up.*

U. Other Matters.

Commissioner Mildren expressed appreciation for the excellent live entertainment that took place at Theatre North and the Historic Ironwood Theatre over the weekend.

V. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Frank, seconded by Dean, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 P.M.



Kim Corcoran
Kim Corcoran, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson
Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk